

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03  
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 JUSE-00 FBIE-00 /059 R

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-----063080 110058Z /65  
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 062917

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, CI

SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION:  
PRESS STATEMENT - MARCH 10, 1978

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESS STATEMENT POSTED AT  
STATE DEPARTMENT AT 5 P.M., MARCH 10:

IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE,  
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, DEPARTMENT  
OF JUSTICE AND FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION MET  
MARCH 9 WITH A SPECIAL DELEGATION OF CHILEAN OFFICIALS,  
LED BY UNDER SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, COLONEL ENRIQUE  
MONTERO, TO DISCUSS THE INVESTIGATION OF THE MURDERS IN  
SEPTEMBER 1976 OF ORLANDO LETELIER AND RONNIE MOFFITT.  
ON MARCH 10 THE DELEGATION MET WITH UNDER SECRETARY FOR  
POLITICAL AFFAIRS, PHILIP HABIB, OTHER DEPARTMENT  
OFFICIALS AND THE ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY, EUGENE M.  
PROPPER.

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THE CHILEAN DELEGATION REITERATED THAT IT IS PREPARED  
TO GIVE FULL COOPERATION TO THE INVESTIGATION BY THE  
UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES. AT THE SUGGESTION OF THE  
CHILEAN GOVERNMENT, THE REQUEST OF THE ASSISTANT U.S.  
ATTORNEY FOR TESTIMONY FROM PERSONS IN CHILE HAS BEEN  
PRESENTED IN THE FORM OF LETTERS ROGATORY, IN ACCORDANCE  
WITH CHILEAN LAW. THESE LETTERS ARE NOW IN THE HANDS

OF THE DESIGNATED CHILEAN CRIMINAL COURT, AND COLONEL MONTERO INDICATED HIS GOVERNMENT AND THE CHILEAN JUDICIARY ARE PROCEEDING WITH THE MATTER AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. HE EXPLAINED THAT AT THE REQUEST OF THE PRESIDENT OF CHILE, A JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS BEEN APPOINTED BY THE SUPREME COURT TO INVESTIGATE THE ISSUANCE OF OFFICIAL CHILEAN PASSPORTS TO TWO PERSONS WHOSE TESTIMONY IS SOUGHT IN CONNECTION WITH THE MURDERS OF ORLANDO LETELIER AND RONNIE MOFFITT.

THE UNDER SECRETARY AND OTHER U.S. OFFICIALS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO THE DELEGATION FOR ITS OFFER OF COOPERATION, REITERATED THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THE UNITED STATES VIEWS THE MATTER AND THE EXPECTATION THAT THE CHILEAN AUTHORITIES WILL HELP THE U.S. AUTHORITIES BRING THE INVESTIGATION OF THESE MURDERS TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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